

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DAVID LESLIE MANNING, Jr.,  
Petitioner,  
v.  
STIRLING PRICE, Warden, et al.,  
Respondents.

Case No.: 16-cv-0525-JAH-JMA

**ORDER ADOPTING THE REPORT  
AND RECOMMENDATION;  
DENYING PETITION FOR WRIT  
OF HABEAS CORPUS; AND  
DENYING A CERTIFICATE OF  
APPEALABILITY**

## INTRODUCTION

Pending before the Court is Petitioner David Leslie Manning Jr.’s (“Petitioner”) petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, challenging his state court conviction. See Doc. No. 1. The Honorable Jan M. Adler, United States Magistrate Judge, submitted a report and recommendation (“report”) to this Court, recommending the petition be denied in its entirety. See Doc. No. 20. No objections to the magistrate judge’s report were filed. After careful consideration of the parties’ submissions, along with the entire record of this matter, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge’s report in its entirety, **DENIES** the instant petition, and **DENIES** a certificate of appealability.

## **BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

2 On January 30, 2013, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office filed a felony  
3 complaint charging Petitioner with one count of stalking with a court order in effect, in  
4 violation of California Penal code § 646.9(b), and two counts of making a criminal threat,  
5 in violation of California Penal Code § 422. On April 15, 2013, Petitioner entered into a  
6 plea agreement in which he pleaded guilty to stalking with a court order in effect, and the  
7 remaining counts were dismissed. The court sentenced Petitioner to a stipulated sentence  
8 of six years in prison. Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the California  
9 Court of Appeals on September 14, 2014, which was ultimately denied. Next, Petitioner  
10 filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus with the California Supreme Court on March 14,  
11 2016, which the court denied with a citation to In re Dixon, 41 Cal. 2d 756, 759 (1953).  
12 Petitioner then filed an additional petition for writ of habeas corpus with the California  
13 Court of Appeals, which was denied, citing In re Clark, 5 Cal. 4th 750, 767 (1993).  
14 Petitioner filed another petition with the California Supreme Court which was denied once  
15 more, this time with a citation to In re Miller, 17 Cal. 2d 734, 735 (1941). Finally, Petitioner  
16 filed the operative petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 with this  
17 Court on April 4, 2016. Upon receiving an answer from the Respondent, Judge Adler  
18 submitted a report to this Court, recommending the petition be denied in its entirety.  
19 Petitioner has filed no objections to the report.

## **DISCUSSION**

## **I. Scope of Review**

22 The district court’s role in reviewing a magistrate judge’s report and  
23 recommendation is set forth in Title 28, United States Code, § 636(b)(1). Under this statute,  
24 the district court “shall make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report . . . to

<sup>27</sup> The underlying facts set forth in the magistrate judge's report, to which plaintiff presents no objection,  
<sup>28</sup> are adopted in toto, and referenced as if fully set forth herein.

1 which objection is made,” and “may accept, reject, modify, in whole or in part, the findings  
2 or recommendations made by the magistrate [judge].” Id. It is well-settled, under Rule  
3 72(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that a district court may adopt those parts of  
4 a magistrate judge’s report to which no specific objection is made, provided they are not  
5 clearly erroneous. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 153 (1985).

6 This petition is governed by the provisions of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death  
7 Penalty Act of 1996 (“AEDPA”). See Lindh v. Murphy, 521 U.S. 320 (1997). Under  
8 AEDPA, a habeas petition will not be granted with respect to any claim adjudicated on the  
9 merits by the state court unless that adjudication: (1) resulted in a decision that was contrary  
10 to, or involved an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law; or (2)  
11 resulted in a decision that was based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light  
12 of the evidence presented at the state court proceeding. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d); Early v.  
13 Packer, 537 U.S. 3, 8 (2002). When there is no reasoned decision from the state’s highest  
14 court, the Court “looks through” to the underlying appellate court decision and presumes  
15 it provides the basis for the higher court’s denial of a claim or claims. See Ylst c.  
16 Nunnemaker, 501 U.S. 797, 805-06 (1991). “[S]o long as neither the reasoning nor the  
17 result of the state-court decision contradicts [Supreme Court precedent,]” the state court  
18 decision will not be “contrary to” clearly established federal law. Early, 537 U.S. at 8.  
19 Clearly established federal law, for the purposes of § 2254(d), means “the governing  
20 principle or principles set forth by the Supreme Court at the time the state court renders its  
21 decision.” Lockyer v. Andrade, 538 U.S. 63, 72 (2003).

22 **II. Analysis**

23 Petitioner alleges the following claims in his petition: (1) the police officer who  
24 reported to the scene falsified his report; (2) this falsified report was used against him in  
25 his preliminary hearing; (3) the evidence presented at the preliminary hearing was  
26 insufficient and the Prosecution failed to establish every element; and (4) Petitioner claims  
27 his counsel was ineffective for failing to argue these points.

1       The Court received no objections to the magistrate judge's report, nor did Petitioner  
2 request additional time in order to file objections. As such, this Court may adopt the  
3 magistrate judge's findings and conclusions presented in the report as long as they are not  
4 clearly erroneous. See Thomas, 474 U.S. at 153. This Court's careful *de novo* review of  
5 the record reflects the magistrate judge presented a cogent analysis of all of Petitioner's  
6 claims and, thus, finds the magistrate judge's findings and conclusions are not clearly  
7 erroneous.

8       Specifically, the Court agrees with Judge Adler's finding that Petitioner's habeas  
9 petition was procedurally barred from federal review. See Bennett v. Mueller, 322 F.3d  
10 573, 583 (9th Cir. 2003). California procedure requires that following a denial by the Court  
11 of Appeal the appellant must file a petition for review to the California Supreme Court, not  
12 a habeas corpus petition. See Cal. R. Ct. 8.508. Petitioner failed to demonstrate the  
13 inadequacy of the California procedure or how failure to consider his claims would result  
14 in a fundamental miscarriage of justice, thus his claims are procedurally defaulted. See  
15 Coleman v. Thompson, 501 U.S. 722, 750 (1991).

16       The Court also concurs with Judge Adler's findings on the merits of Petitioner's  
17 claims. In claims one and two, Petitioner argues the police report of the incident in question  
18 contained summaries of several voicemails left by Petitioner that omitted important  
19 portions of the voicemails, and that report was subsequently used against him at his  
20 preliminary hearing. However, a comparison of the police report and transcripts from the  
21 actual voicemails clearly illustrate that the police officer's summation was not inaccurate.  
22 As to his third and fourth claims, Judge Adler correctly held that the evidence presented by  
23 the prosecution during the preliminary hearing was sufficient to establish probable cause  
24 in every count charged. Finally, the Court agrees that the representation by Petitioner's  
25 counsel was not deficient, as Petitioner failed to establish either prong required by  
Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984).

27       Accordingly, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's findings and conclusions  
28 presented in the report in full and **DENIES** the instant petition in its entirety.

1      **III. Certificate of Appealability**

2      Rule 11 of the Federal Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases states that “the district  
3      court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse  
4      to the applicant.” A certificate of appealability is not issued unless there is “a substantial  
5      showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). Under this  
6      standard, the petitioner must demonstrate that “reasonable jurists could debate whether . .  
7      . the petition should have been resolved in a different manner or that the issues presented  
8      were ‘adequate to deserve encouragement to proceed further.’ ” *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529  
9      U.S. 473, 475 (2000) (citation omitted). For the reasons set forth in the magistrate judge’s  
10     report and recommendation and incorporated by reference herein, the Court finds that this  
11     standard has not been met and therefore **DECLINES** to issue a certificate of appealability  
12     in this case.

13      **CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

14      Based on the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- 15            1. The findings and conclusions of the magistrate judge presented  
16            in the report and recommendation are **ADOPTED** in their  
17            entirety;
- 18            2. The instant petition is **DENIED with prejudice**;
- 19            3. Petitioner is **DENIED** a certificate of appealability; and
- 20            4. The Clerk of Court shall enter judgment in accordance with this  
21            Order.

22      **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

23      DATED: April 13, 2018

24        
25      JOHN A. HOUSTON  
26      United States District Judge